

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., APRIL 20, 1938.

The tenth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1938 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Friday, April 20, 1938.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,

Mr. Garfield,

Mr. Taft,

Mr. Vitale,

also Mr. H. P. Gaemmerer, Secretary and

Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: The Minutes of the meetings held March 8 and March 15, 1938, were approved.
2. PUBLIC WORKS BILL (H.R. 8137) Under date of March 15, 1938, the following letter was received from Hon. William Williamson, Chairman of the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, House of Representatives:

"Inclosed herewith is a copy of H.R. 8137, 78th Congress, 1st Session, 'A Bill to provide for the transfer to the Department of the Interior of the Public works functions of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.'

May I have your criticisms and suggestions upon this bill in so far as it affects the Commission of Fine Arts?

Thanking you in advance for as prompt a reply as is convenient, I am,"

The paragraph in the Bill referring to the Commission of Fine Arts reads

as follows:

"The Commission of Fine Arts is hereby transferred to the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and the authorities, powers, and duties conferred by law, Executive order, or otherwise, upon said commission shall remain with the commission, except that the Secretary of the Interior shall direct the efforts of the commission to conform with the public-works functions of his department, with the approval of the President."

In the consideration of the Bill the Commission pointed out that during

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the eighteen years of its existence the Commission of Fine Arts has been advising Committees of Congress, the President, and the Executive Officers of the Government on matters of art and taste; that during this period Congress by legislation has extended the scope of the work of the Commission, as stated in the Organic Act and in some cases has given the Commission power not specified in the Act. Also, the President of the United States, by Executive Order, has imposed upon the Executive Departments the duty of consulting the Commission of Fine Arts before taking official action on projects within the general scope of the Organic Act creating the Commission, and that this has brought the Commission into personal relations with the President, with the members of his cabinet and with various Committees of Congress. The Commission pointed out further that their powers being advisory, it is most essential to the success of the Commission's work that the intercourse between legislative and executive branches of the Government shall be of the freest possible nature. The creation of an intermediary official of the Government, as the Bill proposes, through whom communications would pass, would, in the nature of questions involved that come before the Commission, destroy that freedom of intercourse on which the value of the Commission's work depends; that the supervision proposed would not be real but would set up simply a cumbersome machine. The Commission therefore disapproved the transfer to the Department of the Interior, as proposed in the Bill, and a report was sent to Representative Williamson (Exhibit A).

3. **LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR SAULT STE. MARIE:** Under date of March 17, 1928, the following letter was received from Major A. T. Coiner, Office of the Chief of Engineers, U.S.A., Washington, D.C.:

"Referring to your letter dated October 20, 1927, relative to landscaping the Government park at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, in which you request that a tracing of the park area be furnished as a basis for

advice, there are sent you 11 blueprints showing the lock grounds at Sault Ste. Marie.'

The blueprints were inspected by Mr. Vitale, who suggested that they be placed in charge of a competent landscape architect to attend to the project. After considering several leading landscape architects of the country, the Commission decided upon Mr. T. Glenn Phillips, Landscape Architect, of Detroit, (Exhibit B).

Mr. Moore said he knew Mr. Phillips, having worked with him on the Planning Commission in Detroit. Also, Mr. Moore again briefly referred to the time when the park was created and he assisted in the selection of the monument, with the advice of Mr. McTim. Mr. Moore said the monument resembles the obelisk in Central Park, and is the largest piece of single stone in a monument in this country,--a "Sienese" stone from Connecticut, 42 feet long.

4. STATUE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON FOR THE WHITE HOUSE: Under date of April 5, 1929, a letter was received from the Department of State, transmitting the following copy of a letter from Mrs. Adelaide A. Pearch, of Round Hill, Greenwich, Connecticut, regarding a statue of George Washington proposed for the White House:

"The Principal Secretary to
The President,
White House, Washington.

Round Hill, Greenwich,
Connecticut, March.

Dear Sir: A friend of mine, Albert Wood, Esquire, J.P.D.L., of Conway, North Wales, has in his possession an original statue of George Washington, by the Italian sculptor, Marchetti.

Mr. Wood (now being ninety years old) wishes to present this statue to the American nation for erection in the White House.

The statue is of bronze and depicts Washington mounted in full military dress. Its height is roughly two and half feet, and its base length 3-3½ feet.

Marchetti himself had intended to bring his statue to America but his plans were frustrated by the war, during which it was acquired by Mr. Wood.

He has requested me to make this offer and if it is acceptable

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I should be glad if you will inform me of the necessary steps to be taken in order to make the presentation.

I shall be several weeks at the above address before returning to Conway. I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) Adelaide A. Pearch."

The Commission considered the matter carefully. As the members did not know the name of the sculptor nor any of his work; also there being no photograph of the statue submitted, they were unable to judge the merits of the statue. The Commission disapproved placing the statue in the White House. (Exhibit C).

5. PROPOSED BILL FOR MARKERS: Under date of March 14, 1928, Hon. Robert Luce, Chairman of the Committee on the Library, House of Representatives, addressed a letter to Mr. Moore, regarding a uniform bill for markers as follows:
"My dear Mr. Moore:

"In view of the steadily increasing volume of requests for monuments or markers to mark historic spots the Committee on the Library would like to consider what might become a standard form of bill. It should of course include the usual provisions but at least for purposes of consideration may well go somewhat farther, including provisions for the acquisition of the site, the care of the monument or marker, and particularly standards of cost. It may be possible to provide for three types with different degrees of expense, so that when a request is granted it may be allotted to that class, corresponding to the relative importance of the person or episode to be commemorated. Also we would like to consider a provision that one half of the expense shall be borne by the State, county or locality, or privately met. If you continue in the judgment that the matter might be habitually in the care of the Interior Department possibly you might be willing to confer with the Solicitor of that Department if you should find it feasible to collaborate in the framing of such a standard form of bill. Whether or not it would be feasible each year to combine all the proposals in one bill is a matter to be taken into account."

Very truly yours,
Robert Luce.

The letter was brought to the attention of the members of the Commission. The secretary said that in talking with Mr. Luce about this matter in the Library Committee room, Mr. Luce had said he was anxious to have a uniform bill for markers of this character, in order to give equal recognition to requests from members of Congress for them, and that he thought \$2,500 a fair sum.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the matter of the proposed amendment to the constitution of the State of New York, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

The Commission on the subject of the proposed amendment has been organized, and its members are

not yet in a position to report on the same. The Commission will, however, be able to report on the same at an early date.

In the meantime, the Commission has been authorized to hold public hearings on the proposed amendment, and to receive and consider all suggestions and objections thereto.

The Commission has also been authorized to hold public hearings on the proposed amendment, and to receive and consider all suggestions and objections thereto. It is requested that you will keep the Commission advised of any further developments in the matter.

Very respectfully,
Chairman of the Commission on the Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of New York

Enclosed for you are two copies of a report of the Commission on the Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of New York, dated the 14th inst.

In view of the fact that the Commission has been organized, and its members are not yet in a position to report on the same, it is requested that you will keep the Commission advised of any further developments in the matter.

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Chairman of the Commission on the Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of New York

The Commission took the matter under advisement. The general feeling of the members was that no standard form of procedure be adopted for these markers, but that each design be considered on its merits.

Mr. Moore said he would take up the matter with Mr. Luce.

6. **STATUE OF GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD:** Mr. Moore brought to the attention of the Commission the following Bill for a proposed statue to General Artemas Ward (H.J.Res.265, 76th Congress, First Session):

"RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to select a suitable site and to grant permission to the president and fellows of Harvard College to erect, as a gift to the people of the United States, on public grounds of the United States in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, a monument in memory of Major General Artemas Ward commemorative of the services rendered by him to his country during the war of Independence: PROVIDED, That the site chosen and the design of the memorial shall be approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, that it shall be erected under the supervision of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, and that the United States shall be put to no expense in or by the erection of the monument."

Also, the following letter, dated April 17, 1928, received from

Mr. Artemas Ward, Jr., 55 Liberty Street, New York City, on the subject:

"Dear Mr. Moore:--

"I had to leave early on Friday, but before going I took a taxi and went over some of the ground again in order to follow out your suggestion that I might offer some other places for your consideration, if I felt that the location you showed me was too far out.

After looking over the various localities closer in, I thoroughly agree with you that there are few, if any, that offer much promise. However, there are two places that would certainly be satisfactory to me and I suggest them to you for your consideration and with the hope of your approval. One of these places was brought to my attention by a suggestion you made to Mrs. Reed that it might be well to put the statue near the State, War and Navy building. With that in mind, I went down 17th Street and note that it could be put back of the State, War and Navy building directly across the street from the Art Gallery or on the same side further down the street opposite the Pan American or Navy building, as the case may be.

Further down 17th Street where it joins the Speedway there is a position across the road and to the northwest of the Paul Jones monument where the meeting of the roads makes a little "V" plot which is now planted with shrubbery.

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various committees of the Board of Directors.

1. The Committee on the General Administration of the Board of Directors.

2. The Committee on the Financial Affairs of the Board of Directors.

3. The Committee on the Legal Affairs of the Board of Directors.

4. The Committee on the Technical Affairs of the Board of Directors.

5. The Committee on the Social Affairs of the Board of Directors.

6. The Committee on the Cultural Affairs of the Board of Directors.

7. The Committee on the Educational Affairs of the Board of Directors.

8. The Committee on the Scientific Affairs of the Board of Directors.

9. The Committee on the Artistic Affairs of the Board of Directors.

10. The Committee on the Literary Affairs of the Board of Directors.

11. The Committee on the Historical Affairs of the Board of Directors.

12. The Committee on the Geographical Affairs of the Board of Directors.

13. The Committee on the Biological Affairs of the Board of Directors.

14. The Committee on the Medical Affairs of the Board of Directors.

15. The Committee on the Pharmaceutical Affairs of the Board of Directors.

16. The Committee on the Veterinary Affairs of the Board of Directors.

17. The Committee on the Agricultural Affairs of the Board of Directors.

18. The Committee on the Forestry Affairs of the Board of Directors.

19. The Committee on the Fishing Affairs of the Board of Directors.

20. The Committee on the Hunting Affairs of the Board of Directors.

21. The Committee on the Game Affairs of the Board of Directors.

22. The Committee on the Wildlife Affairs of the Board of Directors.

23. The Committee on the Conservation Affairs of the Board of Directors.

24. The Committee on the Environmental Affairs of the Board of Directors.

25. The Committee on the Pollution Affairs of the Board of Directors.

26. The Committee on the Climate Affairs of the Board of Directors.

27. The Committee on the Weather Affairs of the Board of Directors.

28. The Committee on the Air Affairs of the Board of Directors.

29. The Committee on the Water Affairs of the Board of Directors.

30. The Committee on the Land Affairs of the Board of Directors.

31. The Committee on the Soil Affairs of the Board of Directors.

32. The Committee on the Rocks Affairs of the Board of Directors.

33. The Committee on the Minerals Affairs of the Board of Directors.

34. The Committee on the Metals Affairs of the Board of Directors.

35. The Committee on the Non-Metals Affairs of the Board of Directors.

36. The Committee on the Fuels Affairs of the Board of Directors.

37. The Committee on the Energy Affairs of the Board of Directors.

38. The Committee on the Power Affairs of the Board of Directors.

39. The Committee on the Transportation Affairs of the Board of Directors.

40. The Committee on the Communication Affairs of the Board of Directors.

Upon my return to the City I took this matter up with Judge Ward and showed him the various positions. Both he and I feel that we prefer, if possible, to have it placed on 17th Street in any one of the places enumerated above or at the junction of 17th Street and the speedway near the Paul Jones monument.

We both appreciate your plan to develop the corner of Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, but feel that, besides being rather far out, this commanding position would be more suitable for a very much larger and expensive monument to act as a landmark. A statue and setting to be erected for the money appropriated would not be sufficiently large in that location to justify placing it there and would not be large enough to get a proper silhouette against the sky. In fact, such a setting would seem more appropriate for the erection of a very large and expensive monument to an army division in the Great War or to commemorate some victory. It could be built to tower above everything and would have a wonderful silhouette against the skyline.

Judge Ward and I desire a life size, bronze, portrait statue of Major General Artemas Ward in the uniform of a major general of the Continental army. A bronze statue something like the Alexander Hamilton statue in front of the Treasury building would be pleasing. It is more natural, is less posed in effect and shows more action than the John Barry monument at Franklin Park. We suggest that the base be similar in design to that of the Paul Jones statue, but without any stone setting or column behind the bronze figure. It seems to me that a statue with a similar arrangement for inscription could be designed and erected within the appropriation.

Hope to send you shortly a photograph of General Ward's sword, now ~~in~~ with the Massachusetts Historic and Genealogical Society, so that the artists may be able to include it in the design of the statue.

Am enclosing a clipping from the New York Herald Tribune (April 15, 1908), which may be of interest.

I shall appreciate very much anything you can do for me in regard to the above and wish to thank you again for your courtesy and hospitality.

Cordially yours,

Artemas Ward, Jr.

Mr. Moore said he thought the sites favored by Mr. Ward along 17th Street would interfere with the 1901 Plan of development, and the Commission agreed with him. Also, the Commission felt it inadvisable to erect so many monuments in the heart of the city, and that splendid locations for monuments in the newer portions of the city should be emphasized. The Commission recommended that the Artemas Ward Statue, when erected, be placed at Massachusetts Avenue and Nebraska Avenue, Northwest (Exhibit D).

7. DISTINGUISHED "NON-RESISTANT" SERVICE MEDAL: Mr. Moore said that in

accordance with suggestions made from time to time he had been in communication with the War Department regarding a design for a medal to commemorate distinguished service of a non-military nature and that he had asked Mr. Carl Mose, instructor of sculpture at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, to prepare a sketch.

Mr. Mose's sketch was submitted to Mr. Taft, who favored the figure in low relief, of two sketch models submitted. The question of executing them is to be taken up further with the War Department.

8. ROBERT LINCOLN MONUMENT: Mr. Moore stated that he had been in conference with Mr. James E. Fraser regarding the monument desired by Mrs. Lincoln for the Tomb of her deceased husband Robert Lincoln, in the Arlington National Cemetery; that Mr. Fraser was at work on a ~~model~~ design of a sarcophagus, of which he was submitting a sketch; and that the monument is to be placed on a site set aside for it by the Quartermaster General in Arlington, on the slope north-easterly from the Arlington Mansion. The Commission considered the sketch suggestive of an appropriate monument in Arlington to Robert Lincoln.

9. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WORLD WAR MEMORIAL: Colonel Grant having requested the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to the location of the District of Columbia World War Memorial, which is to be a Band Stand, in Potomac Park, in relation to roadways in the locality, the Commission inspected the site, and saw the marker erected amidst a group of trees south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Basin and a few hundred feet west of the John Paul Jones Statue. Also the ground plan for the Arlington Memorial Bridge was noted.

The Commission decided that the location of the Band Stand there need have no axial relations with any element in the plan, as shown on page 6 of the report of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission. (Exhibit E)

10. SCHOOL BUILDING NEAR THE HALL: Under date of April 19, 1933, the

following letter was received from Mr. J. L. Schaffer, Chairman, School Committee, of the South Washington Citizens' Association, requesting the advice of the Commission as to locating a proposed school building near the Mall:

"The suggestion has been made that the west half of the area known as reservation 'D', and bounded by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Street, Maryland Avenue, Sixth Street and Maine Avenue, Southwest, would be suitable for the erection thereon of the proposed new Jefferson Junior High School.

We desire your opinion on this matter, especially from the standpoint of the future development of this section."

The Commission decided that no school building should be erected so near the Mall, as the area is needed for new buildings of the Mall type, namely "Museum" or "Auditorium" buildings. (Exhibit F)

11. NAMES OR TITLES FOR NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN THE TRIANGLE: The secretary informed the Commission that their advice is desired as to the question of names or titles for the new public buildings in the Triangle.

The Commission felt that this is a matter which might be brought to the attention of the Architectural Advisory Board of the Secretary of the Treasury, for consideration in connection with the building plans for the Triangle.
(Exhibit G and G-1)

12. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts made on March 18, 1938, Messrs. Pollin, Head and White, Architects, submitted, through the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, plans for the treatment of the steps and approach to the Bridge at the Lincoln Memorial. The plans showed:

Steps 175 feet in width, brought back into the plaza; supplementary steps to care for the rise and fall of water. No underpass. Place for a "roadway" at the foot of the steps. Also, retaining walls on each side of the steps, joining them with the parapets of the bridge and the Rock Creek Parkway connection; and the arch under the abutment of the bridge cut at right angles with the bridge, with a corresponding treatment of the arch under the Rock Creek Parkway connection.

Mr. J. C. McFarley, Assistant Executive Officer, of the Arlington Memorial

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Bridge Commission, was present, in company with Mr. Lawrence Grant White, and Mr. J. O. Vegeszi, of the Office of McKim, Mead and White, who explained the plans.

The secretary read the following telegram received from Mr. Morris (who was unavoidably prevented from being present at the meeting), advising that he approved these plans, which he and Mr. Vitale had inspected, as follows:

New York, April 19, 1928.

"Have carefully examined Bridge and Approach drawings, Scheme D, dated April seventeenth, and heartily approve same as most happy solution of problem and recommend their approval. Personally see no objection and would prefer low and heavy planting in shore angles in order to render inconspicuous the asymmetry of road arches and adjacent wall surfaces. Pylons seem in good scale but I do hope the statues will be eliminated, nor am I sure about the lions."

Mr. Vitale said the plans were gone over carefully, as Mr. Morris had stated, and that also Mr. Delano had seen them; that the plans present a very satisfactory solution of the problem presented at the meeting of the Commission on March 15th and that he would approve them, with the suggestion that high planting instead of low planting be used adjacent to the steps. Mr. Garfield and Mr. Taft inspected the plans and said they would favor their adoption.

Mr. White suggested that questions raised as to the lions and statues be held in abeyance until the return of Mr. Kendall from abroad in a few weeks, but that he would like advice as to the pylons, a sketch model of one of them having been erected at the bridge, near the Lincoln Memorial.

After thorough consideration of the plans submitted (Scheme D, dated April 17, 1928), the Commission approved them in general (Exhibit H). In the afternoon an inspection trip was made to the bridge. Major Mehaieff took the members out into the river to see the construction work of the bridge, from which also the sketch model of the pylon was inspected. The Commission felt

that the pylon was not out of proportion in relation to the bridge, though further study is to be given to it before a final decision is made; but that in relation to the Lincoln Memorial the pylon seemed much too large. The Commission decided to meet May 24th, when it was hoped the other three pylon models at the Lincoln Memorial plaza could be set in place for inspection. The question of statues on the bridge was held in abeyance, but the general feeling was that it would be better to leave them off the bridge.

13. BOAT HOUSE, TIDAL BASIN: A design was submitted by Major J. C. Mehaffey, in behalf of Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant Ed, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, for a new boat house at the Tidal Basin. The Commission inspected the design and approved it, with the suggestion that the roof might be a little higher.

The Commission felt it would be desirable to give more open space to the porch; if possible, extending the entire width of the building, so as to accommodate many people who would be going to the Boat House; or else use glass partitions at the sides, so as to give as much light as possible to the porch. Attention was called to the very satisfactory paint building, built in Colonial style, at Hains' Point. (Exhibit I).

14. H STREET BRIDGE: The secretary stated that, having heard through a newspaper report in the Washington Star of March 29, 1928, that the District Commissioners were inclined to proceed with the construction of the proposed steel girder bridge at H Street, because of \$75,000 additional required to build a bridge of the masonry arch type, he had had an interview with Commissioner Dougherty, President of the Board, on the subject, who had agreed to see to it that Mr. Harris, the Municipal Architect, is consulted as to the plans for the bridge. Also, that on March 30th,

Hon. Louis C. Cramton, a member of the Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives, had written to the Commission on the subject, enclosing a copy of a letter he had written to Commissioner Dougherty as follows (copy furnished each member of the Commission):

House of Representatives, U.S.
Washington, D.C.

March 30, 1928.

"The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen: I noticed in the paper last night that it is stated that the City Commission is likely to go ahead in the construction of the H Street bridge across Rock Creek under plans disapproved by the Commission of Fine Arts.

I enclose herewith copy of my letter to the President of the Board of Commissioners. I will be very glad to be advised as to the nature of the criticism of the proposed plans by the Commission and as to the correctness of the newspaper statement that compliance with the views of the Commission would add \$75,000 to the cost of the bridge.

Thanking you for this information, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Louis C. Cramton.

March 30, 1928.

Hon. Proctor L. Dougherty, President,
Board of Commissioners, D. of C.,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

I noted in The Star last night that it is stated that the City Commission is considering the construction of a bridge across Rock Creek at H Street under a design which has been disapproved by the Fine Arts Commission. If we are to have a Fine Arts Commission, it would seem to me permanent structures erected by the government itself, whether District or national, should conform to its requirements. It appeals to me that the Commission ought not to go ahead in the use of a design disapproved by the Fine Arts Commission without express consideration of that question by the proper committees of Congress.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Louis C. Cramton."

The secretary stated that, in the absence of Mr. Moore, who was in Texas

Mr. Louis D. Brandeis, a member of the Commission, has been

appointed, and will be the Commission on the subject of

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on a vacation trip, he had informed Representative Cranton that the plans thus far submitted by the District Commissioners were not acceptable because they were designed by an Engineer instead of an Architect; that the steel girder bridge did not conform to the standard type of bridges thus far erected across Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, as exemplified by the Q Street and the Connecticut Avenue Bridges; and that the Commission of Fine Arts had recommended that the Municipal Architect ought to advise in the preparation of the plans for the bridge (Exhibit J). The secretary said that Mr. Harris had informed him that the District Commissioners had asked him about the plans for the bridge, and the question of design is under consideration by them at the present time.

15. HAWAII SESQUICENTENNIAL COIN: Mr. Moore brought to the attention of the Commission a photograph of the models (obverse and reverse) prepared by Mr. Chester Beach, sculptor, for the Hawaii Sesquicentennial half dollar, showing the head of Capt. Cook on one side and a native Hawaiian on the other. Mr. Taft was well pleased with the design.

Mr. Moore said the design had been brought to the attention of Hon. Victor H. Houston, Delegate from Hawaii, who had made a number of technical suggestions in the design, particularly with reference to the costume of the native Hawaiian, and that the Director of the Mint had raised questions as to the relief---which have been brought to the attention of Mr. Beach. Some of these suggestions Mr. Houston regarded of minor importance and were left to the judgment of the artist.

(A third revised design was submitted by Mr. Beach, and approved by the Commission May 4, 1923. Exhibit K)

16. MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Mr. I. W. Payne, Landscape Architect, Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, Lieut. Col. U.S. Grant 3d,

submitted
Director, a landscape plan for the treatment of the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park. Also, Mr. H. W. Peaslee, Landscape Architect, submitted further progress studies for architectural construction work in the Lower Garden.

The plans were inspected, also the Commission visited the site during the afternoon, and while the plans appeared generally acceptable, Mr. Vitale said he regarded the plans of such great importance as to call for an interview with Mr. Platt, who originally had much to do with laying out the park, and consult also, if possible, other former and present members of the Commission residing in New York. The Commission concurred in this. Mr. Vitale said he would arrange for the meeting in a few days, and Mr. Peaslee said he would attend it.

The Commission were pleased with the progress made in the construction work of the Lower Garden, -walls, parapets, entrances, etc. The Commission favored a rather slender, graceful urn, for the entrance pylons at the southwest corner of the park, at about 16th and W Streets, a model of which Mr. Peaslee had set in place.

At the request of the Commission, the secretary ascertained from General Lorrason Riggs, Equitable Building, Baltimore, executor of the estate for the erection of the Buchanan Memorial, that the end figures, which are practically complete, have been cut in Dalfour Pink Granite, of the Harris Granite Company, Salisbury, North Carolina; that General Riggs desires to be advised by the Commission whether Dalfour Pink Granite should be used for the panels of the monument. General Riggs said further that they do not propose to erect the monument in the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park until the appropriation of \$100,000 in the pending District of Columbia Appropriation Bill, 1906, is made available. The plans will receive further consideration at the meeting of the Commission on May 24th.

17. ~~PORT LINCOLN~~ and ~~PORT LINCOLN CEMETERY~~ (N.E. Corner Md. and District Line):

The Commission made a trip of inspection to Fort Lincoln and Fort Lincoln Cemetery, with Mr. Peaslee, and Major McHaffey, of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital. The Commission inspected with much interest the Chapel and Cloister which Mr. Peaslee had built at the Fort Lincoln Cemetery during the past year, of Aquia Creek (Virginia) granite, brownish-gray in appearance, of which the original walls of the Capitol and the White House, as also the "base" of the fence surrounding them were built, of that granite.

The Commission regarded the vista from the hill very beautiful, and said the question of creating a "Panorama park" could well be taken up with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Maryland Park and Planning Commission. Also, the question of the proposed "Fort Drive", which is to connect the Anacostia Park on the east side of the District of Columbia with Rock Creek Park on the west, following natural contours as far as possible, and that this ought to be done especially at Fort Lincoln.

The Commission adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The Commission were the guests of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission at luncheon at the Cosmos Club; Mr. Parsons, Architectural Advisor for the new Capitol Grounds and Union Station, ^{plans} and Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, were also present.

COPY

April 20, 1928.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of March 17th, asking for criticisms and suggestions upon the Bill, H. R. 8127, 70th Congress, first session, "To provide for the transfer to the Department of the Interior, of the public-works functions of the Federal Government, and for other purposes", the Commission of Fine Arts respectfully report:

The Commission of Fine Arts has no executive functions. It was created by Congress to advise the Committees of the Legislative branch of the Government and also the President and other Executive officers (when called upon by them) on questions of art. Its powers are merely advisory. The successful working of the Commission depends on the entire freedom of its intercourse. To place the Commission under the jurisdiction of any one executive department would impair, if not destroy, its usefulness. The degree of that usefulness is best shown by the increasing duties placed upon the Commission by legislation.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. William Williamson, Chairman,
Committee on Expenditures in the
Executive Departments,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit A

E. coli

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stronger than before. I will not be able to do this.

con ti, abbiamo parlato di questo in molti altri e in lo ricordiamo e in

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COPY

April 21, 1928.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 20, 1928, inspected with interest the blueprints you submitted with your letter of March 17th (7243 St. Marys Falls CnL/D) , showing the lock grounds at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

The problem has several elements that need pulling together,-- first, the spaces between the locks in so far as they are used by tourists; second, the small, narrow park (already pretty well developed) between the town and the Weitzel Lock; and, third, the larger area between the locks and the Power House, in which are the Monument and the Government Building. These three elements should be considered in the plan.

The project is one calculated to interest a designer of ability and standing---such a man, for example as E. Glenn Phillips, of Detroit, who has had long experience in laying out the park scheme for that city. He could handle the Sault Ste. Marie matter conveniently, and this Commission recommends that you consult him.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully,

Major E. E. Coiner,
Office of the Chief of Engineers,
War Department,
Washington, D.C.

Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Exhibit B

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April 24, 1928.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 20, 1928, considered your letter of April 3d (Pa-811.412/230), with its enclosure of a copy of a letter from Mrs. Adelaide A. Pearch, Round Hill, Greenwich, Connecticut, in which she states that Albert Wood, Esquire, of Conway, North Wales, has in his possession an original statue of George Washington by the Italian sculptor Marachetti, which he wishes "to present to the American nation for erection in the White House."

The name of the sculptor is unknown to the members of the Commission. There is no record that a sculptor of that name executed a portrait of Washington during the lifetime of the General. No photograph of the statue is submitted from which to form even an approximate idea of its value as a work of art. The Commission, therefore, advise that the offer be declined with thanks to Mrs. Pearch for the suggestion.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Hon. Nelson T. Johnson,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Chairman.

Exhibit C

COPY

April 24, 1928.

Dear Mr. Ward:

Replying to your letter of April 17th, I would say that I have looked over the spaces you suggest near the John Paul Jones monument.

In the development of the Plan made in 1901 the Monument Grounds are to be enlarged and the John Paul Jones will probably be removed to another site. There is nothing fixed in that vicinity.

The Artemas Ward statue might be erected in one of the vacant spaces between the State, War and Navy building and the street, but the proximity to a bad building would kill a good statue. The space between the State, War and Navy Building and the Washington Monument Grounds is designed in such way as not to permit any statues in it and all requests for spaces there have been refused.

Your letter was read to the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on Friday and they seemed to be somewhat impressed by your idea that perhaps a more important work should go into the circle which may be created at the corner of Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues. Perhaps you have in mind some other suggestions which can be considered. Of course, what the Commission is looking for is the embellishment of the city of Washington, and unless the Artemas Ward monument shall be a work of art, with an appropriate setting, it would not be interesting. I hope we can work out such a result.

Cordially yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Artemas Ward Jr., Esq.,
55 Liberty Street,
New York, N. Y.

Exhibit D

COPI

April 21, 1923.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 20, 1923, considered the question presented by you as to whether the site in Potomac Park, selected for the District of Columbia World War Memorial need be related to adjacent roads or to the Plan of Potomac Park.

The Commission inspected the site marked for the Memorial. It is in a grove of trees, under which the people will sit to listen to music. It need have no axial relations with any element in the plan as shown on page 6 of the report of The Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 2d,
Director, Public Buildings and
Public Parks of the National Capital,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit D

April 11, 1961

Dear Mr. Tolson:

The Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 10, 1961, in which you requested that the Commission advise you of the progress of its work.

Very truly yours,

Walter S. Mossberg, Chairman

It is the Commission's policy to keep the public advised of its progress.

It is also the Commission's policy to keep the public advised of its progress.

Very truly yours,

Walter S. Mossberg, Chairman

For the Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

Very respectfully,

Walter S. Mossberg

Chairman

Enclosed for the Commission are two copies of the report of the Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, dated April 10, 1961.

Very truly yours,

COPY

April 25, 1928.

Dear Mr. Schaffer:

Replying to your letter of April 19th, suggesting Reservation D as a site for the proposed new Jefferson Junior High School, the Commission of Fine Arts would not approve locating the school there. The plans contemplate taking in that reservation into the Mall System. In this case the Government would take the land for a public building conforming to the Mall Group.

Yours very truly,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. J. M. Schaffer, Chairman,
School Committee,
Southwest Washington Citizens' Association,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit F

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COPY

April 24, 1933.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The Commission of Fine Arts has been asked to advise as to the question of names or titles for the new public buildings in the Triangle. The Commission felt this is a matter which might be brought to the attention of your Architectural Advisory Board for consideration in connection with the building plans for the Triangle.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Charles Moore,

Mr. Edward M. Bennett, Chairman,
Architectural Advisory Board,
Office of the Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.

Chairman.

EXHIBIT C

BERNARD PARSONS AND FROST
80 East Jackson Blvd.
Chicago

April 27, 1933.

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I have your letter of April 24th in which you make reference to names or titles for the new public buildings in the Triangle and will, as you suggest, bring the matter to the attention of the Architectural Advisory Board at the next meeting.

Yours very sincerely,

E. M. Bennett, Chairman,
Board of Architectural Advisors.

EXHIBIT C-1

CCNY

April 21, 1928.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 20, 1928, approved in general the plans, dated April 17, 1928, submitted through you by Messrs. McKim, Mead and White, Architects of the Arlington Memorial Bridge, for the treatment of the steps and approach to the Bridge at the Lincoln Memorial. It was noted that the plans conform to the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts made at the meeting held March 15, 1928.

The sculptural features indicated in the plans and also the question of size of the pylons will be taken up by the Commission of Fine Arts at their next meeting, to be held May 24th. The Commission made an inspection trip to the Bridge and viewed from the river the model of the pylon that has been erected. The Commission recommend that models of the other three pylons be erected at the Lincoln Memorial site for inspection and consideration at the next meeting. While the pylons are features of the Memorial Bridge, the question of proper size of the pylons in relation to the Lincoln Memorial is, in the opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts, one of great importance.

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant Ed,
Executive Officer,
Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit H

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May 2, 1928.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 20, 1928, approved the design which you submitted for a proposed Boat House at the Tidal Basin, with the suggestion that the roof might be a little higher.

The Commission feel that the porch overlooking the water might be treated so as to make a glass front and glass sides. The porch seems to be too small to be useful, whereas by a little thought it might be made to extend the whole width of the building. The Commission would regret sacrificing a large open porch for an exhibition room for boat models.

The Commission have been very much pleased with the effect of the building at Mains Point. It is simple in its design and adapted to the park. In other words it is suitable for its intended purposes. These are simply suggestions. Perhaps they have a little more force when we consider that the architecture of the Lincoln Memorial is classical and a classical Bandstand is to be placed in the nearby grove. The Colonial style, as shown in the building at Mains Point, would seem to fit into the landscape a little better than the non-descript building designed.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 5d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit I

2. John Doe 1000 1000

COPY

April 5, 1938.

Dear Mr. Cramton:

Your letter of March 30th, together with a copy of a letter which you sent to Commissioner Dougherty, regarding the M Street Bridge, has been received. The Commission of Fine Arts will greatly appreciate your view that the District Commissioners "ought not to go ahead in the use of a design disapproved by the Fine Arts Commission without express consideration of that question by the proper committees of Congress".

The trouble with the M Street Bridge plan that has been submitted by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia is that it was designed by an engineer, instead of an architect. As a result the plan lacks architectural motives, and to carry out the plan would result in a bridge not in keeping with what has been established as an appropriate type of bridge to cross the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, of which the Q Street and the Connecticut Avenue bridges have set the standard. The Commission of Fine Arts have recommended that the Municipal Architect assist the District Engineer of Bridges in the preparation of the plan. The estimate of \$75,000 additional cost is an amount determined by the District Commissioners.

I shall be pleased to bring your letter to the attention of the members of the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

H. P. Gaemmerer,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. Louis C. Cramton,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit J

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May 4, 1928.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts approve the models of the third revised design for the Hawaii Sesquicentennial half-dollar, prepared by Mr. Chester Beach, Sculptor, and a print of which he has submitted.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Robert J. Grant,

Director of the Mint,

Treasury Department.

Exhibit K

May 7, 1933.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts has received your letter of the 4th inst. regarding the proposed design for the United States Capitol Building. The Commission has considered the same and has decided to recommend the design proposed by Mr. Cassius M. Johnson, which is a plan of the building as shown on the attached plan.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully,
Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Enclosure.

Very truly yours,
Charles M. Johnson,
Secretary.

May 11, 1933.